(a) to (c) Commissioner Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Director and General Manager (Construction) in Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) are appointed with the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet as per their Recruitment Rules which are not exactly similar to the equivalent posts in Government of India.

(d) and (e) Out of the three posts mentioned above the terms of the present Director, NVS was extended on two occasions from 12.4.98 to 30.9.99 and for one year beyond 30th September, 1999.

Target for hundred per cent literacy

1038. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for hundred per cent literacy;

(b) whether adequate budget would be provided to achieve the target; and

(c) the reasons for proposing to make education a fundamental right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) The National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy to 100 million adult non-literates in the age group of 15-35 years in a time-bound manner; and adequate budget provision has been made.

(c) Though the Hon'ble Supreme Court's ruling in the Unni Krishnan case has already made education of children upto 14 years a fundamental right, the amendment of the Constitution would make it an obligation of State to provide free and compulsory education, and demonstrate necessary political will and administrative resolve of the country to achieve universalisation of elementary education and to eradicate illiteracy.

Annual Rate of Literacy Growth

1039. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the annual rate of literacy growth in the country; and

(b) the steps taken to touch 100 per cent literacy in the country within a decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) According to the National Sample Survey Organisation in the 53rd round, the literacy rate in the country at the end of 1997 was 62%. At present an annual rate of literacy growth of approximately 1.82% is being maintained as per these figures.

(b) Government has made continuous efforts to achieve the goal of adult literacy and universalisation of elementary education within a given time frame. Details of the steps taken are:

- The National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy to threshold, sustainable level of 75% by the year 2005.
- Total Literacy Compaigns have covered approximately 80 million adults in 457 districts.
- Focus on woman's literacy and greater involvement of Panchayati Raj institutions.
- Continuous Monitoring and Review of all programmes.
- Energetic action to achieve universalisation of elementary education through mission mode and through complementarity of actions between the governmental and non-governmental sectors at various levels. This is a continuing exercise with a new thrust.

Failure of centrally-sponsored education programmes in Orissa

1040. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Centrally-sponsored education programmes in Orissa have failed;

(b) whether the objectives of the programmes had been reviewed from time to time; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) The Department has not received any specific complaint regarding